

Application Serial No. 10/725,356
Amendment Dated April 25, 2006
Reply to Office Action of January 25, 2006

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the courtesies extended to the undersigned during the telephone interview on April 20, 2006. The substance of the discussion of the interview is incorporated within the following remarks.

Reconsideration of the above-mentioned application is hereby requested in view of the above amendments and remarks which follow. Applicants appreciate the thorough review of the application by the Examiner and appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter.

Claims 1 through 21 are currently pending in this application. Claims 9 and 12 have been amended to correct simple typographical errors. The Examiner indicated that claims 1 through 13 and 18 through 21 are allowed. The Examiner indicated that claims 14 through 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of JA 3-213,483 in view of U.S. Patent 4,753,448 to Nagashima (hereinafter "Nagashima"), and the combination JA 3-213,483 in view of U.S. Patent 4,794,815 to Borromeo (hereinafter "Borromeo").

Regarding claims 14 and 16, neither JA 3-213,483 in view of Nagashima nor Borromeo disclose a riser cap "including upper and lower surfaces, the upper surface free of apertures, the lower surface including a pair of apertures" as required by amended claims 14 and 16. As discussed during the interview, neither JA 3-213,483 nor Nagashima include a riser cap having an upper surface free of apertures. Additionally, as discussed in the interview, Borromeo does not disclose a riser cap. Applicants respectfully request removal of the rejections to amended claims 14 and 16. Dependent claims 15 and 17 depend either directly or indirectly from amended claims 14 and 16. Allowance of dependent claims 15 and 17 is also respectfully requested.

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For all of the above mentioned amendments and remarks, Applicants believe that claims 1-21 stand in condition for allowance, and respectfully request early passage thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

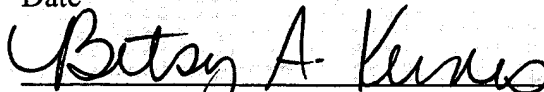


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Date



Betsy A. Kunes